

December 8, 2006

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WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio's legislation to transfer approximately 12 acres of West Eugene Wetlands property to the City of Eugene (H.R. 4784) passed the House today, and companion legislation (S. 2150) passed the Senate. The property is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The City of Eugene plans to build an environmental education center and wildlife viewing area on the property.

"Transferring this property will allow the city to build upon the successful restoration of the West Eugene Wetlands," DeFazio said. "The planned education center and wildlife viewing area will be a real asset to the wetlands project and the community as a whole."

"This legislation will bring momentum to the establishment of a Wetlands Education Center that will reconnect the Wetlands to our community consciousness via education, recreation, and interpretation through our past, present and future," Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy said. "This project will expand our horizons in science and self-knowledge, not only for our region's youth, but for citizens of all ages."

The legislation, known as the "Eugene Land Conveyance Act," was enthusiastically supported by the City of Eugene and the Bureau of Land Management. Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith introduced S. 2150.